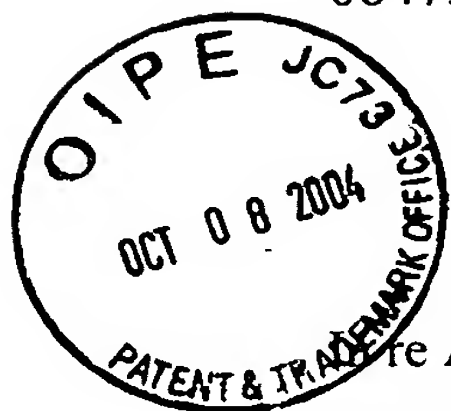


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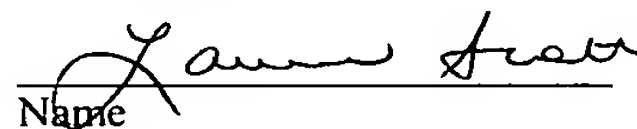


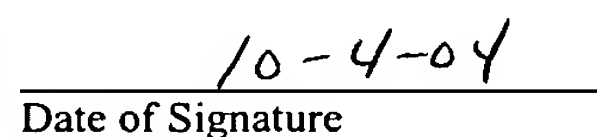
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: Yasuhiko (nmi) Aoki et al.
Serial No.: 10/627,548
Filing Date: July 25, 2003
Group Art Unit: 2874
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATING
OPTICAL TRAFFIC BETWEEN RING NETWORKS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date shown below.


Name


Date of Signature

Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR STATUS

Please advise the status of the above-identified patent application. The Filing Receipt was received November 4, 2003. Applicants are currently awaiting a first Office Action.

REMARKS

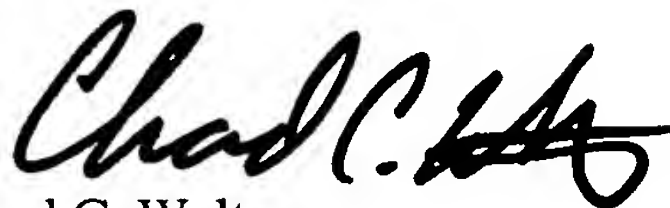
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.702(a)(1), it has been over fourteen months since the filing date of this Application and neither a Notification under 35 U.S.C. § 132 nor a Notice of Allowance under 35 U.S.C. § 151 have been received. Thus, a period of adjustment of patent term due to examination delay is accruing in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.703(a)(1).

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If there are any matters that can be resolved through a telephone conference, please contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Chad C. Walters

Reg. No. 48,022

Date: October 4, 2004

Customer Number 05073